

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Jim
L.
DPS-5058
COPY 1 OF 1

14 October 1958

SUBJECT: Continuation of Work on "C" Configuration

TO: Contracting Officer

The attached memorandum summarizes the meeting held at this Headquarters on 2 October 1958 to discuss progress made by Perkin-Elmer and the Hycon Corporations in improving the "C" Camera configuration. In confirmation of a verbal go-ahead given to the Perkin-Elmer Corporation at this meeting, it is requested that the period of performance on Contract No. HF-32-27 be extended to 31 December 1958 to allow the contractor to continue the development of this program. A statement of work covering this period is being prepared and will be forwarded to you upon receipt.

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Memo for the Record
14 Oct 58 (1 cy)

Lt Colonel, USAF

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HF-32-27
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COPY 1 OF 1

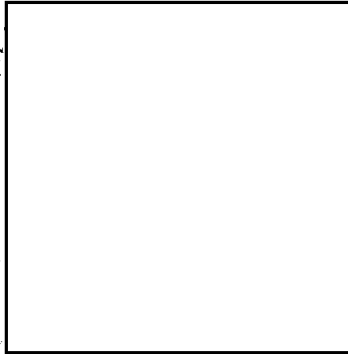
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14 October 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of "C" Conference of 2 October 1958

1. Persons in Attendance:



ASC, Hq AMC
Det. #1, Hq ARDC
Hq USAF
Hq USAF
Perkin-Almer

2. The reliability phase of the extended "C" effort was contractually limited through 2 Oct 58. A conference to discuss progress made and the future alignment of this program was held on 2 Oct 58. The continued development and expenditure rate of approximately per month has on three occasions been discussed in detail with Colonel Richard Uhle, DCS/M, Hq USAF. All persons concerned agree that the effort should be continued.

3. The program period just concluded originally envisioned a reliability phase for the "C" Camera. Four "C" operational missions were to be scheduled concurrently with four "B" Camera missions in order that comparative data could be presented to SAC for their evaluation as to its operational value and also to afford the 4028th Special Reconnaissance Squadron an opportunity to foresee the operational, maintenance, training, and processing requirements attendant to "C" configuration.

4. The first operation^{al} mission scheduled for some 8 hours, aborted at the end of 2 hours with a failure of the shutter components. Evaluation of this failure disclosed the take to be of no value. The camera was not in focus; extensive vibration was apparent and the film was unreadable. Some rework was done in order to isolate the problem areas identified by this mission and the mission was reflown with no results. At this point, it was determined that further reliability testing was out of the question until the camera could be made to operate satisfactorily. Accordingly, the remainder of this period was consumed with R&D type work directed toward making the camera operable. At the close of the period, two successful missions of short duration had been run. The evaluation of this film indicates many technical problems still exist, i.e., shutter functioning is unpredictable; the focus problem seems to have been fairly well resolved; some areas of vibration have been isolated and other areas of resolution have been pinpointed.

5. The conference of 2 October primarily consisted of discussions of future effort. It is my opinion that continued short periods of performance are uneconomical from a contractual standpoint and also undesirable from the contractor's standpoint. Therefore, it was determined that a new phase of "C" development would begin on 2 October through the period 31 December 1958. A statement of work for this period has not been completed; however, it is generally envisioned to consist of one, a portion of this period devoted to pure R&D, R&D Studies of the problem areas today identified, i.e., shutter redesign, better focus, vibration isolation, IMC, exposure control, etc.; a second phase of this program devoted to flight testing the results of the R&D Studies and improvements; and a third phase to again attempt to determine the reliability of the camera as a system. This effort is estimated to cost approximately \$150,000.

6. Concurrent with the above, preliminary planning is being done in order that the 4020th Special Reconnaissance Squadron can be required to accept this camera as a service test item at such time that it proves feasible. Training programs are being devised, materiel support is being studied, and facilities have been evaluated. It appears that in the event "C" Camera is considered reliable enough to enter into a service test program by 1 January, the 4023th SRS would be in a position on or about that date to satisfactorily support the effort.

7. In the event that "C" Camera configuration fails to improve materially during this program, it is the intent of this office to again evaluate the requirement with the appropriate headquarters. Unless a strong requirement exists for this type of equipment, a recommendation for cancellation of this effort will be made.


Lt Colonel, USAF

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